

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising a plate attachable to said top drive, a supporting member for supporting a tool and a means for allowing substantially horizontal movement of said supporting member.

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2. ~~(Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said means also allows substantially vertical movement of said supporting member.~~

3. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said means comprises a rigid member arranged between said plate and said supporting member and arranged on at least one axle.

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4. (Amended) An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising a plate attachable to said top drive, a supporting member for supporting a tool, and a means for allowing substantially horizontal movement of said supporting member, wherein said means comprises a rigid member arranged between said plate and said supporting member and arranged on at least one axle, wherein said means comprises at least one arm arranged between said rigid member and said support member and connected thereto by spherical bearings .

5. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in any of Claim 2, wherein said means comprises pistons and cylinders arranged between said plate and said supporting member to allow vertical movement of said supporting member.

6. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in any of Claim 2, further comprising a slider to facilitate vertical movement of said supporting member.

7. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a mud pipe is arranged between said plate and said supporting member.

8. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said mud pipe is moveable in relation to said plate and said supporting member about ball joints.

9. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said supporting member is a hydraulic motor.

C B ~~10. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 including said tool.~~

11. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said supporting member is integral with said tool.

12. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said tool is for gripping a tubular.

C ~~13. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, including a top drive.~~

14. A method for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the method comprising the steps of attaching a tool to the top drive using a supporting member and adjusting the supporting member to cause the tool to be displaced horizontally relative to the top drive.

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2002, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 25, 2002. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.